Ministry of Commerce to look after virginia tobacco growers. The Board regulates the production of virginia tobacco and runs auction platforms.

(b) Committee headed by Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy was set up to look into the causes leading to and problems arising out of employment of children and to suggest suitable measures for their protection and welfare. As per the recommendations of the Committee child labour cell has been set up in the Ministry of Labour in 1979; The Child Labour Advisory Board was formed in March, 1981 and the Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee has been constituted w.e.f. 3-8-1987.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal for model work centres for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh

7667. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up model work centres for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not protected the employment of beedi workers;

(c) whether Government propose to ensure security of employment for beedi workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) to (d) The Government have enacted several labour laws, viz., the Beedi & cigar Workers' (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; the E.S.I. Act, 1948; the Payment of Wages Act, 1927, Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; Chapter IV & Section 85 of the Factories Act, 1948 and the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 which are applicable to beedi workers and protect their interests. In addition, the Government are implementing several anti-poverty and employment generation programmes for the rural and the urban poor which include the beedi workers.

Welfare schemes for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh

7668. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no monitoring is done of welfare schemes for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether district-wise figures are available on the economic health of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether there has been no improvement in the per capita income of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh in the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): The Ministry of Labour have an office of the Welfare Commissioner in Hyderabad to implement various welfare schemes for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh. The implementation of the welfare schemes is closely monitored both by the Welfare Commissioner and the Ministry of Labour. Apart from that a statutory Tripartite State Advisory Committee has been set up by the Central Government in the State of Andhhra Pradesh which also does this monitoring function.

(b) Steps have been taken to streamline the working of various welfare schemes and to substantially step up their implementation, both in quality and quantity, particularly in the fields of housing, health and education. Besides, the Government have intensified various anti-poverty and employment generation schemes during the Eighth Plan to help the rural and urban poor which include beedi workers.

(c) No such report has been received by the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Report of National Commission on Agricultural Labour

7669. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Agricultural Labour has submitted its report;

(b) if so, when was the report submitted and details of major observations/ recommendations made;

(c) what specific action has been taken by Government on various major recommendations involving action by Central/ State authorities recommendation-wise;

(d) reasons for delay in implementation of the recommendations made by the Commission; and

(e) what specific steps have been taken by Government during the last 4 years for improving the conditions of unorganised working force and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (e) The Government has not set up any National Commission exclusively for the Agricultural Labour. However, a National Commission on Rural Labour was set up by the Government on 11-8-87 to go into the problems of rural labour which include Agricultural Labour.

The National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) has submitted its report on 31st July, 1991. Some of the major recommendations of the NCRL are as follows:

(i) Free and compulsory education for all children upto the age of 14:

(ii) Prohibition of child labour in all occupations and processes;

(iii) A "National Credit Fund for Women" for poor women so that they could get credit without any collateral security upto a specified financial limit;

(iv) Fixation of a National basic minimum wage of Rs. 20/- per day at December, 1990 prices and a provision for increase of wages automatically every six months on the basis of rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI);

(v) Self-employment programmes like the IRDP by linking them to area development plans to be formulated by the elected institutions within the scheme of decentralisation;

(vi) Ban on labour-displacing mechanisation in agriculture, like the use of combine harvesters;

(vii) A more concerted policy to assist and provide relief to the migrant labour;

(viii) Credit for consumption to rural labour families at lower rate of interest;

(ix) Easier accessibility of institutional credit to rural labour households through cooperative Banks.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO SOCIAL SECURITY:

(i) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923:

The definition of 'workmen' be amended to cover all the rural workers.

(ii) Old age pension:

Old age pension at Rs. 100 per month be paid to all males and females above age of 60 subject to income limits prescribed. Destitutes and handicapped persons, ever if below the age of 60 are eligible at present for old age pension in several States. This may be continued. While it is appreciated that it may